Appl. No. 09/675,529
Amdt. dated July 14, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 3, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Canceled).

2.   (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor;

~~at least one input/output device coupled to said processor;~~

a flashable ROM device coupled to said processor and containing a configuration table; and

a non-volatile, non-flashable memory device coupled to said processor and containing a<u>n</u> extension configuration table;

wherein configuration ~~information~~ <u>character data</u> can be added to the computer system by storing such configuration <u>character data</u> ~~information~~ in the <u>extension configuration table</u>~~non-volatile, non-flashable memory device~~; and

wherein, upon executing a set-up routine to <u>permit a user to</u> configure the computer system for a newly installed device, said processor examines the flashable ROM device to determine whether configuration <u>character data</u> ~~information~~ pertaining to the newly installed device is present and, if not, said processor then examines the non-volatile, non-flashable memory device to determine whether the configuration <u>character data</u> ~~information~~ pertaining to the newly installed device is present.

3.   (Original) The computer system of claim 2 wherein said non-volatile, non-flashable memory device comprises a non-volatile RAM device.

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4.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table and said extension configuration table include a plurality of entries with each entry including an option identifier and corresponding configuration character data.

5.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 4 wherein each option identifier and corresponding configuration character data pertain to a circuit board.

6.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table includes a plurality of entries with each entry including a board identifier and corresponding configuration character data.

7.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 6 wherein said extension configuration table includes storage capacity for a plurality of entries that include a board identifier and corresponding configuration character data.

8.   (Currently amended) A method of configuring a computer, comprising:
        adding a device to the computer;
        first searching a ROM memory in which configuration information is stored
                for the configuration information pertaining to the added device; and
        then, if the configuration is not found in the ROM memory, searching a
                non-volatile RAM memory for the configuration information;
        flashing the ROM memory;
        determining whether any entries in the ROM memory duplicate entries in
                the non-volatile RAM memory; and
        if one or more duplicates are found, clearing the one or more duplicate
                entries from the non-volatile RAM memory.

9.   (Canceled).

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10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9-8 wherein the configuration information includes circuit board identifiers and corresponding configuration data.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9-8 wherein the configuration information includes operating system data.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 8 further including storing configuration information in said non-volatile RAM memory instead of in the ROM memory when said device is added to the computer.

13.   (Original) A method of flashing a ROM containing configuration information with a new set of configuration information in a computer system also including an NVRAM which contains an extension table having storage for configuration information, wherein new configuration is added to the NVRAM extension table instead of the ROM, said method comprising:
    comparing entries in the new set of configuration information to be stored
        in the ROM against entries in the extension table in the NVRAM;
    if a matching pair of entries is found, deleting the corresponding entry from
        the NVRAM; and
    storing the new set of configuration information in the ROM.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the configuration information comprises board identifiers and corresponding configuration data.